

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Third Berkshire Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2003.

Residents of Third Berkshire Representative District

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2003, there were 115,896 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 1.8% (2,068) of these admissions reside in the Third Berkshire Representative District. 1% (26) of admissions from the Third Berkshire Representative District were under 17 years of age. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.** In FY 2003, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from the Third Berkshire Representative District reported the following characteristics:

- 66% were male and 34% were female.
- 53% were between the ages of 30-49.
- 86% were white non-Latino, 7% were black non-Latino, 4% were Latino, and 3% were other racial categories.
- 56% were never married, 13% were married, and 31% reported not to be married now.
- 25% had less than high school education, 53% completed high school, and 23% had more than high school education.
- 23% to treatment were employed.
- 11% were homeless.
- 42% had prior mental health treatment.

Primary Substance of Use

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use that is the substance for which the client is seeking treatment. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Third Berkshire Representative District.

Table 1					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2003					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	59 %	13%	8%	3%	11%
State	43%	38%	6%	4%	4%

Substances Used in Past Year

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, as well as the prevalence of injection drug users (or IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 2 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2003 Third Berkshire Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	1,327	1,203	512	260	424	87	56
FY '96	1,237	1,083	502	215	376	104	70
FY '97	1,296	1,128	456	262	329	138	83
FY '98	1,911	1,618	724	350	529	207	107
FY '99	1,975	1,728	805	445	617	268	168
FY '00	2,006	1,732	855	449	568	320	210
FY '01	1,926	1,647	816	433	542	327	174
FY '02	2,009	1,717	898	521	639	412	187
FY '03	2,068	1,728	832	529	692	456	208

Heroin and Injection Drug Use

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Third Berkshire Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

